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SUBJ: ACABQ REPORT ON ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING

REF: (A) USUN 4314; (B) STATE 215103

- 1. SUMMARY: ACABQ REPORT (A/9008 ADD.) ON ICC COSTS SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BY ICC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOLLOWING REJECTION BY ACC OF SPECIAL FIVE POINT PROGRAM FOR ICC DISCUSSED PARA 2 REFTEL A. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TASK FORCE WILL INVESTIGATE. UNFORTUNATE IMPACT THIS EPISODE UPON INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION SUGGESTS DESIRABILITY OF AMENDMENT TO ACABQ REPORT. END SUMMARY.
- 2. AS DEPT AWARE ACABQ REPORT ON ICC COSTS IN COMPARISON WITH THOSE OF NEW YORK COMPUTER CENTER AND ON DEGREE OF UTILIZATION OF ICC CAPACITY HAS CAUSED DEEP CONCERN AND CONSIDERABLE HEAT AMONG INTERESTED AGENCIES HERE. WHO, IN PARTICULAR, HAS PROTESTED MATTER IN STRONG TERMS IN ACC WHERE DG MAHLER PUERSUADED IN HAVING ACC REFUSE APPROVE "FIVE POINT PROGRAM" (PARA 2 REFTEL A) AND SEND QUESTION TO ICC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WHICH, ACCORDING TO WHO (A/DG FURTH) AND ICC DIRECTOR, HAS NEVER BEEN CONSULTED EITHER BY ACABQ IN PREPARING ITS REPORT (A/9008 ADD.) OR IN DRAWING UP FIVE POINT PROGRAM.
- 3. AT MEETING OF ICC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON NOV 2 WE UNDERSTAND THAT FURTH STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY UNDP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(SHAPIRO) EXPRESSED SAME DEEP CONCERN AND STRONG OBJECTION

TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAHLER HAD VOICED AT ACC. FURTH ANXIOUS TO DETERMINE HOW ACABQ HAD BEEN MISINFORMED. UPSHOT WAS THAT ICC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF ACABQ MISINFORMATION AND TO REPORT ON COST EFFECTIVENESS OF ICC VS NYCC, THE ILO COMPUTER, THE CERN COMPUTER, ETC. ALSO BENDER (JIU) WILL BE ASKED TO EXAMINE SPACE SITUATION IN GENEVA FOR ICC. TASK FORCE IS TO MEET IN FEBRUARY 1974 AND REPORT THROUGH ICC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO ACC. MEMBERS INCLUDE REPS OF WHO/ILO/ITU.

- 4. ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THERE IS MORE TO THIS SITUATION THAN IS IMMEDIATELY APPARENT (E.G. ILO INTEREST IN MAINTINING ITS OWN COMPUTER CAPACITY MAY ALSO BE A FACTOR), IT IS CLEAR THAT ACABQ REPORT ON ICC WAS INACCURATE (REFTEL A). THIS IS REGRETTABLE FROM A NUMBER OF VIEWPOINTS: (A) IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS EPISODE HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL TO THE CONCEPT OF INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION. AS HAS BEEN NOTED BEFORE, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TEND TO RESIST DIRECTION FROM OR BEING "COORDINATED" BY BIG BROTHER, I.E. THE UN. THIS MAY WELL BE CITED IN FUTURE AS AN INDICATIOON OF LACK OF UN OBJECTIVITY: (B) THE APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF ACABQ TO ACCEPT AND NOT TO QUESTION OR INVESTIGATE THE CLAIM THAT UNIT COSTS IN ICC WERE AS MUCH AS THREE TIMES AS HIGH AS THOSE IN THE NEW YORK COMPUTER CENTER IS CONSIDERED BY FURTH AND OTHERS AS SIMPLY INCREDIBLE. THE IMPLICATION THAT ACABQ HAD REVIEWED ICC (WHEN, IN FACT, IT HAD NOT APPROACHED ICC) CONTAINED IN ITS REPORT AND IN A LETTER FROM ACABQ TO ACC STATING THAT THE SITUATION IN ICC HAD "DETERIORATED" WERE CITED AS BASIS FOR REDUCED CONFIDENCE IN OBJECTIVITY AND/OR COMPETENCE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE; (C) THE ACABQ REPORT QUESTIONING ICC EFFICIENCY HAS REPORTEDLY (BY ICC) BEEN CITED BY BOTH GATT AND ILO IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ICC RE PARTICIPATION OR INCREASING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE CENTER. (GATT DENIES THIS).
- 5. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO EXAGGERATE THE PROBABLE LONG TERM EFFECT OF THIS SITUATION, THE QUESTION DOES ARISE AS TO WHETHER ACABQ SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PUBLISH AN AMENDMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ITS REPORT A/9008 ADDENDUM. DESPITE THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY FURTH AND OTHERS THAT THE ACABQ NEVER ADMITS IT IS WRONG, IT IS OUR VIEWPOINT THAT, IN THIS INSTANCE, BY AMENDING ITS REPORT ON THE BASIS OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MIGHT TEND TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MOST UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION AND IMPACT ON INTER-AGENCY AFFAIRS.
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